

## Message Text

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17-20

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /031 W  
----- 049780

O R 211056Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0604  
INFO USINT CAIRO  
USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 9391

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US  
SUBJECT: US POSTURE ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

1. AT MY RECEPTION LAST EVENING FOR THE 29 CONGRESSMEN VISITING ISRAEL, I HAD A NUMBER OF KNESSET MEMBERS AND OTHER PROMINENT ISRAELIS PRESENT. SEVERAL OF THE ISRAELIS HAD JUST HEARD ISRAELI RADIO NEWS REPORT ABOUT SECRETARY'S MEETING YESTERDAY WITH SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY HIS REFERENCE TO A US SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO THE NEWS REPORT ISRAELIS HAD HEARD, SECRETARY WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING TOLD COMMITTEE (OR NEWSMEN) THERE ARE THREE PARTICULARLY THORNY PROBLEMS RE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT: BORDERS, JERUSALEM, AND PALESTINIANS. ISRAELIS WERE TAKEN ABACK THAT THIS ENUMERATION REPORTEDLY DID NOT INCLUDE: PEACE. DEPUTY TRANSPORT MINISTER YAACOBI, PROMINENT HAWK (AND DAYAN CONFIDANT) IN LABOR PARTY, AND YORAM ARIDOR, LIKUD CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND KNESSET MEMBER, BOTH MADE POINT OF EXPRESSING CONCERN TO US THAT ABOVE NEWS REPORT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY REFLECT SHIFT IN US ATTITUDE ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING REAL PEACE OR AT LEAST MIGHT BE SO READ BY ARABS.

3. I REPORT ABOVE AS SYMPTOMATIC OF (A) HOW ISRAELIS CURRENTLY ARE HANGING ON EVERY US WORD, AND (B) HOW CRITICAL THE ISSUE  
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OF PEACE IS FOR THEM. WHATEVER WAS ACTUAL SOURCE OF ISRAELI RADIO ITEM IS IRRELEVANT; WHAT MATTERS OF COURSE ARE US AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS. BUT MODERATE ISRAELIS ARE COUNTING ON US--AND EXTREMIST ISRAELIS ARE SERIOUSLY DOUBTING US WILL--TO PRESS

HARD FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE WHICH IS NOT JUST A PIECE OF PAPER,  
BUT A PROCESS, INVOLVING ARAB AGREEMENT TO SUCH THINGS AS  
COMMENCE WITH ISRAEL AND OTHER SIGNS OF GRADUAL NORMALIZATION  
AND RECOGNITION.

4. I THEREFORE HOPE THAT MAGIC WORD "PEACE" WILL ALWAYS BE  
PRESENT IN OUR FORMULATIONS AND, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, INFERENCE  
WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED THAT PEACE MUST BE MORE THAN PIECE OF  
PAPER.

KEATING

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 11 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PEACE, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE TALKS, COMMITTEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, IS, US  
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